

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-05  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /087 W  
-----117816 220213Z /70

R 211849Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3916  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EEC, GR, PFOR, ECIN  
SUBJ: EC/GREECE RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: EC AND GREECE HELD SERIES OF MINISTERIAL  
LEVEL MEETINGS DECEMBER 19 WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE EC-  
GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS,  
AND "POLITICAL CONSULTATION". ACCORDING TO GERMAN PERMDEL  
SOURCE, MEETINGS CONTAINED LITTLE SUBSTANCE BUT MUCH  
RHETORIC, WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS  
COMPLAINING IN ALL THREE SESSIONS OF THE EC'S INADEQUATE  
TREATMENT OF GREECE. END SUMMARY.

2. PERMDEL SOURCE INFORMS US THAT IN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
MINISTERIAL DECEMBER 19 FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS  
TOLD HIS INTERLOCUTORS THAT CONTINUED EC TARIFF BARRIERS  
ON FRESH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, NAMELY CERTAIN FRUIT AND  
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS WINE, DID LITTLE TO HELP  
IN REDUCING GREECE'S GROWING TRADE DEFICIT. HE ARGUED  
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FOR MORE FAVORABLE CONCESSIONS TO MEET THE TRADE IMBALANCE  
EXISTING BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND GREECE. MOREOVER,  
PAPALIGOURAS EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS AT THE SLOW PACE  
IN THE HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, A PRE-  
CONDITION, HE NOTED, TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF EC-  
GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. EC COMMISSION VICE  
PRESIDENT NATALI REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT GREECE

BENEFITS FROM MORE FAVORABLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND OBSERVED THAT AGRICULTURAL HARMONIZATION IS PARTIALLY EXPLAINED BY GREEK DELAYS IN PROVIDING NECESSARY DATA TO THE COMMISSION IN CERTAIN AREAS. EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, FOR HIS PART, NOTED THAT A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL WITH GREECE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, THAT THE IMPORT/EXPORT RATIO BETWEEN GREECE AND THE COMMUNITY IS IMPROVING IN FAVOR OF GREECE, AND THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON AGRICULTURAL HARMONIZATION, ALTHOUGH SOME PROBLEM AREAS REMAIN.

3. PERMDEL SOURCE DISCLOSED THAT IN THE SESSION ON THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS, PAPALIGOURAS ARGUED FORCEFULLY FOR A MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. PAPALIGOURAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE SO THAT BY THE FALL OF NEXT YEAR NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE AT THE STAGE OF RECONCILIATION OF TEXTS, A FINAL PHASE BEFORE ACTUAL SIGNING OF AN ACCESSION AGREEMENT AT THE END OF 1978. PERMDEL SOURCE REPORTED THAT SIMONET WAS CONCILIATORY IN HIS RESPONSE, SAYING THAT THE COMMUNITY LOOKS FORWARD TO GREEK ACCESSION AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL, THEREFORE, PROCEED WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED. HOWEVER, SIMONET DID NOT COMMIT THE COUNCIL TO ACCEPTANCE OF AN EXPLICIT TIMETABLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. REGARDING POLITICAL CONSULTATION TRADITIONALLY HELD ON THE MARGINS OF THE EC-GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING, SOURCE OBSERVED THAT ACCORDING TO BELGIANS, PAPALIGOURAS USED HIS 20 TO 30 MINUTE SESSION WITH SIMONET--WHICH WAS BILLED AS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SALIENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES--TO COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT THE GREEKS CONSIDER THE DILATORY TACTICS USED BY THE EC COMMISSION IN THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. (COMMENT: ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, RECENTLY WE HAVE HEARD FROM COMMISSION OFFICIALS THAT THE GREEKS HAVE NOT SUPPLIED ADEQUATE INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN SECTORS UNDER NEGOTIATION. SOME COMMUNITY OFFICIALS BELIEVE GREEKS MAY BE DELIBERATELY HOLDING BACK DATA UNTIL A LATER STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.) ACCORDING TO GERMAN PERMDEL SOURCE, SIMONET WAS PRIMED TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH PAPALIGOURAS, AND WHILE SOURCE WAS NOT CERTAIN THESE MATTERS CAME UP, HE ASSUMED THEY WERE CONSIDERED BRIEFLY. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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